allocation for the rural electrification programme (including for village electrificaiton) for the year 1994-95 are given in the Annexure. All the inhabited villages (1981 census) in Gujarat, feasible for electrification are reported to have since been electrified.

(d) and (e) Rural Electrification is a continuing process and targets for village electrification are decided by the Planning commission on a year to year basis. Planning Commission has approved a programme for electrification of 3708 villages during 1994-95 details of which are indicated in the annexure *[see* Appendix 173. Annexure No. 51].

Disposal of Fly-Ash Produced in power Plants

2347. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that dumps of fly-ash are increasing in the vicinity of power plants and factories using coal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that disposal of fly-ash is becoming a costly affairs and it is also causing air and water pollution;

(c) whether fly-ash can be used for manufacturing items like bricks and cement;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and whether there is any schemes to encourage such use of fly-ash; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. About 40 million tonnes of fly ash is generated in the country every year, a majority of which is from theremal power plants. Large tracts of land are acquired adjacent to these theremal power plants for disposing of the slurried fly ash. The requirement of land for this purpose is constantly increasing which is an expensive exercise. Apart from this, fly ash is a source of air and water pollution.

(c) to (e) The issue of fly ash disposal/ utilisation has received the attention of the Government and a number of indigenous technologies have been developed by various research institutes with Government support for its gainful utilisation in the form of bricks, blocks, mortar, pozzalona portland cement, light weight aggregates, alumina extraction, etc. Government have initiated various measures for commercial adaptation of these technologies. Instructions have been issued to State Governments/State Electricity Boards for supply of dry fly ash free of cost to entrepreneurs, provison of land contiguous to power stations to entrepreneurs- on concessional terms, provision of water, power etc. at concessional terms, to encourage manufacture of fly ash based products. Recently, Government have approved a technology project in Mission Mode on fly ash for "selected technology project for fly ash disposal and utilisation."

Demand and Supply of Power

2348. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power supply and demand. State-wise during the last two years;

(b) the reasons for the gap between power supply and demand; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the supply of power to deficient States during peak demand period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) State-wise power supply position during 1992-93 and 1993-94 is given in Annexure. *[See* Appendix 173, annexure No. 52]

(b) The main reason for the power shortage in the country is the imbalace in growth in demand and availability of power.

(c) In order to bridge the gap between demand and availability of power various measures being taken to improve the availability of power in the country include expediting the commissioning of new generating capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reduction of Transmission and Distribution losses, implementation of better demand management and energy conservation measures, arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas and promotion of private sector investment in power sector.